

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 14, 2004. Claims 10-26, 28-40, 50-66, 68-80, 84-86, 90-92 and 94-96 are presented for examination, of which Claims 10, 20, 50, 60 and 94 are in independent form. Claims 10, 20, 50, 60 and 94-96 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to, and the claims were rejected, on the ground that the disclosure was allegedly not enabling for certain claim features; in addition, the claims were rejected as being indefinite. Without conceding the propriety of that objection, or of either rejection, Applicant has eliminated from the claims the language that formed the basis for them, to avoid these as issues. accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections and the objection under Section 112, is respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 16-24, 26, 28-31, 37-40, 50, 56-64, 66, 68-71, 77-86, 90-92 and 94-96 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patents 6,466,968 (*Shirai et al.*) and 6,327,610 (*Uchida et al.*) in combination, and Claims 11-15, 25, 32-36, 51-55, 65 and 72-76 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being obvious from *Shirai* and *Uchida*, further in view of U.S. Patent 6,433,800 (*Holtz*).

In the aspect of the invention to which Claim 10 is directed, an access to an object is limited by using version information (see Fig. 4, element 508; Fig. 5, "ALLOCABLE-DOCUMENT ALL-VERSION ACCESS ENABLE FLAG"; and Fig. 8A, steps S708a and S708b). By virtue of this feature, it is possible for a receiving party to limit the version of documents that can be accessed by a receiving party.

For example, in a case where an object is updated after sending electronic mail that includes access information for accessing that object, the sender of the electronic mail can set the access information so as to permit, or not permit, the receiver's access to the updated object.

Shirai relates to an arrangement that uses an attached file 406 describing location of file indicated by the computer name and the path name in the computer. *Uchida* attaches access code to an e-mail, which specifies the e-mail. *Holtz* drags and drops an object icon 44 to iconic representation 54 in a tool bar 56. Applicant strongly asserts that nothing in these documents, taken separately or in any possible combination (assuming for argument's sake that a combination thereof would even be a permissible one), would teach or suggest limiting access of an object based on its version. At least by virtue of that feature, therefore, Claim 10 is believed to be clearly allowable over those patents.¹

Each of the other independent claims is believed to be allowable over those documents for at least the reasons presented above in connection with Claim 10.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

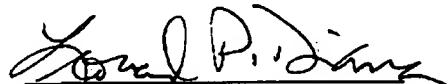
¹ In this regard, it is noted that although Claim 14, as presented in the last Amendment, already recited access limitation based on "version", the Office Action altogether fails even to mention that feature, and does not even assert that such feature is taught by the prior art. Strictly speaking, therefore, the outstanding Office Action is incomplete, and certainly fails even to make out a *prima facie* case of unpatentability as to any claim reciting such feature.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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